



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MUSIC

2015-2016

season of events

Thursdays at Noon

Emily Chiang, piano

Helen Becqué, piano

Thursday, November 12, 2015

12:10 pm

Walter Hall, 80 Queen's Park

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Program

PROGRAM

Variations on a Theme by Paganini

Witold Lutoslawski
(1913-1994)

En blanc et noir

Claude Debussy
(1862-1918)

i. Avec emportement

ii. Lent. Sombre

iii. Scherzando

Petite Suite

Claude Debussy

i. En bateau (Sailing): Andantino

ii. Cortège (Retinue): Moderato

iii. Menuet: Moderato

iv. Ballet: Allegro giusto

La Valse

Maurice Ravel
(1875-1937)

Biographies



EMILY CHIANG, piano

Canadian pianist Emily Chiang is a multi-faceted and versatile artist highly sought after both in North America and in Asia. Born in Taiwan, she made her debut at the age of six, and has since been active as a concerto

soloist and frequently as a solo pianist, performing locally in Toronto and internationally. In addition, her many ongoing collaborative relationships with instrumentalists and other pianists demonstrate her passionate commitment to chamber music. She is equally dedicated as a teacher, currently on the piano faculty at the University of Toronto.

Chiang has worked with many of the most celebrated and inspirational pianists and pedagogues, including Alexandra Munn, Alvin Chow, Arnaldo Cohen and Menahem Pressler. Most recently Chiang studied with Marietta Orlov, completing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Toronto. As a student, Chiang maintained an active schedule as a competitor both locally and internationally, winning first place in the

annual University of Toronto Concerto Competition, and was, more recently, a prizewinner in the Iowa International Piano Competition.

Other studies have included completion of an artistic residency at the Banff Arts Centre, under the tutelage of Julian Martin, and Masters in Performance with Pressler and Cohen at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Prior to this, Chiang completed a Bachelor of Music in performance at the Oberlin College. While at Oberlin, she was a prizewinner in the Hellam Young Artists Competition, as well as the recipient of First Place prize at the Lima Symphony Orchestra Young Artists Competition, resulting in a concerto engagement with the LSO the following year. In addition to her collegiate studies, she has played for and worked with many distinguished musicians including Angela Hewitt, Barry Douglas, Emanuel Krasovsky, Mykolai Suk, and Victor Rosenbaum.



HELEN BECQUÉ, piano

Belgian pianist Helen Becqué gave her European début at the age of nine, performing a solo recital in a benefit

concert for cancer awareness. At 11 she was a finalist in the National Piano Competition of Liège ('André Modeste Grétry'), Belgium, and at 15 she won first prize in the Geraardsbergen Piano Competition for Young Musicians. But since her childhood and subsequent studies, it is her consistently thoughtful, emotionally-committed and technically scintillating performances which have made her an increasingly sought after young artist in Europe and in North America.

Becqué was a finalist in the prestigious International Hugo Wolf Competition in Stuttgart, and a semi-finalist in the largest competition for Lied in the world, 'Das Lied' in Berlin. She completed post-graduate studies with the pre-eminent lieder coach in Europe, Helmut Deutsch, at the München Hochschule für Musik und Theater, and has worked for extended periods with many of the most celebrated vocalists and pianists currently active, including Edith Wiens (the Juilliard School), Benton Hess (Eastman), Menahem Pressler (Indiana Jacobs School of Music), Fritz Schwinghammer (München Hochschule) and much-lauded prizewinner of the International Queen Elisabeth Competition for Piano, Boyan Vodenitcharov (Brussels Royal Conservatory of Music). Becqué is equally passionate about and active in opera, having recently completed a fellowship residency at the Music Academy of the West working with Warren Jones (Manhattan School of Music), Carrie-Ann Matheson (Zürich and NY Metropolitan Opera) and John Churchwell (San Francisco Opera). Becqué's experience as an opera coach and orchestra keyboard player has also involved productions of such diverse operas as Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, Britten's *Turn of the*

Screw, Weill's Street Scene, Verdi's La Traviata, and many others. She was also a recipient of the 2010 Richard Wagner Verband München scholarship, allowing her the coveted privilege of attending a week of Wagner operas at the Bayreuth Festspiele.

Immensely sought after as a vocal coach and teacher, she is currently on faculty at the University of Toronto where she is an instructor of German lieder and song interpretation classes, and was previously a korrepetitorin at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Nürnberg-Augsburg in Germany. In addition to her appointment at the university she is in demand as a performer and collaborator, and performs with vocalists and instrumentalists based in Madrid, Munich, Brussels, New York and in Toronto. Becqué is just as adept as a concert soloist, and has performed with several orchestras (including the Royal Flemish Philharmonic), and been instrumental in many world premieres and notable recordings, including the world premiere of *Three Songs from the Tang Dynasty* by Alice Ping Ye Ho in Toronto, world premiere of Maarten Van Ingelgem's piano concerto with the Kortrijks Symfonisch Orkest in Aalst, Belgium, and a recording of *Sur Incises* by Pierre Boulez, conducted by

Bart Bouckaert, for the Brussels Royal Conservatory.

Becqué credits growing up in a 'polyglot' environment as vital to her strong background in languages. This, in combination with her love of song, the human voice, and the piano has proven thus far an enormous catalyst in the success of her career. Becqué is delighted to have had the opportunities she has, and looks forward to much more beautiful music-making in the future.

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Next on Thursdays at Noon...

November 26, 2015

Violinists Erika Raum and Scott St. John play Omar Daniel's
Gioco Della Copie and Eugène Ysaÿe's Sonata for Two Violins